

Appl. No. : 10/081,028
Filed : February 21, 2002

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 3, 2005, the Examiner made several objections to the specification and claims and further rejected the pending claims of the application under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Schweitzer et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,203,659), the Hiroki reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,989,346), the Somekh et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,697,748) or some combination thereof. By this paper, the Applicant has amended the claims to highlight the subject matter which the Applicant believes is allowable over the art of record. Hence, reconsideration of the above-captioned application in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein is now respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner made several objections to the specification and also to the claims. By this paper, the Applicant has amended the specification and the claims to address the objections raised by the Examiner.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected the pending claims of the application as being obvious in view of the Schweitzer, Hiroki and Somekh references or some combination thereof. After carefully reviewing each of these references, the Applicant notes that none of these references, either by themselves or in combination, disclose the combination of a magazine that vertically moves the chip-carrier plates so that a selected chip-carrier plate can be positioned in a release position and an empty slot can be positioned in a receiving position along with a controller that allows for movement of the first and second clamping devices in a predetermined vertical range and a predetermined longitudinal range (*See, e.g.*, Claim 1 as amended). In fact, the Applicant notes that none of the references cited by the Examiner teach the concept of moving the carrier plates within the magazine such that the plates can be positioned in the release position and also in a receiving position.

Moreover, with respect to the Hiroki reference, the Applicant notes that Hiroki discloses two arms that are essentially operated by a robot which can rotate and, thus, do not induce the vertical and horizontal motion as claimed by the Applicant. By restricting the motion of the transport devices to the defined vertical and horizontal ranges in the Applicant's invention and then using this motion in combination with movement of the magazine, a simpler control system can be employed to near simultaneously extract and remove chip-carrier plates from the magazine. The Schweitzer and Somekh reference do not disclose the combination of the motion

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being restricted along these two axis in combination with the movement of the carrier plates in the magazine and the simultaneous or near simultaneous extraction and deposition of a chip-carrier plate. For these reasons, the Applicant believes that Claim 1 as amended is allowable over the art of record. Moreover, the Applicant further believes that Claims 6 and 15 are also allowable for similar reasons.

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Summary

For the foregoing reasons the Applicant believes that Claims 1, 6, and 15 are allowable over the art of record. The Applicant further believes that the remaining non-cancelled claims define additional patentable subject matter and are also allowable due to their respective dependencies on Claims 1, 6, and 15. The Applicant therefore believes the above-captioned application is in condition for allowance and requests the prompt allowance of the same. Should there be any impediment to the prompt allowance of this application that could be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the number shown below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 8/3/05

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